

## Patent claims

1. A data processing system for processing medically relevant data objects comprising image data and/or metadata with a first electronic data processing device (1) for viewing and editing the data objects which has a data store (9) for storing the data objects and has a first interface (11) for outputting data objects and with a second electronic data processing device (13, 13', 13'') for the processing of data from data objects by a user and/or for presenting data from data objects in medically relevant reports using report masks, the second electronic data processing device (13, 13', 13'') having a mask memory (19, 19', 19'') for storing the report masks and having a second interface (12) for receiving the data objects, characterized in that the first data processing device (1) uses firmly prescribed data formats, which the user cannot alter, in order to store, view and edit the data objects, in that the second data processing device (13, 13', 13'') uses report masks, which the user can generate and/or alter even without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order to present and/or edit data from data objects, and in that the interfaces (11, 12) on the first and second data processing devices (1, 13, 13', 13'') can be connected to one another in order to be able to transfer data objects from the first data processing device (1) to the second data processing device (13, 13', 13'').
2. The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the second data processing device (13, 13', 13'') stores report masks generated or altered by the user in the mask memory (19, 19', 19'').
3. The data processing system as claimed in one of the preceding claims,

characterized in that the interface has a data switching device (21) connected to it which has access to an association memory (23) which contains information about the association between data object types and report masks, and in that the data switching device (21) ascertains the type of a data object transferred via the interface (11), compares the ascertained type with the content of the association memory (23) and associates a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of this comparison.

4. The data processing system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the interconnected interfaces (11, 12) on the first and second data processing devices (1, 13, 13', 13'') can be used to transfer data belonging to data objects from the second data processing device (13, 13' 13'') to the first data processing device (1), and in that data objects with user-edited data which have been transferred to the first data processing device (1) via the interconnected interfaces (11, 12) are stored in the data store (9).
5. The data processing system as claimed in claim 4, characterized in that the content of user-edited data is checked, and these data are stored by the first data processing device (1) only on the basis of the result of this check.
6. The data processing system as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the first data processing device (1) authenticates all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents them for later reconstruction.

7. A distributed method for processing medically relevant data objects comprising image data and/or metadata with a first method component (30) for viewing, editing (33) and storing (35) the data objects and with a second method component (44) for the editing (63) of data from the data objects by a user and presenting (57) data from the data objects in medically relevant reports using report masks and for storing (53) the report masks, characterized in that the first method component (30) uses firmly prescribed data formats, which the user cannot alter, in order to store (37), view and edit (33) the data objects, in that the second method component (44) uses report masks, which the user can easily generate and/or alter (51) even without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order to present (57) and edit (63) data from the data objects, and in that data objects can be transferred (41) from the first to the second method component.
8. The distributed method as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that the second method component (44) stores (53) report masks which the user has generated and/or altered (51) in a mask memory (19, 19', 19'').
9. The distributed method as claimed in claim 7 or 8, characterized in that a data switching component (40) is provided which ascertains the type of a data object transferred (41) from the first to the second method component and compares the ascertained type with the content of an association memory (23) containing information about the association between data object types and report masks and associates (43) a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of this comparison.

10. The distributed method as claimed in claim 7, 8 or 9, characterized in that data belonging to data objects can be transferred (67) from the second to the first method component, and in that the first method component (30) stores (37) data objects with user-edited data which have been transferred (67) to the first method component in a data store (9).
11. The distributed method as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that the content of user-edited data belonging to data objects is checked (69), and these data are stored (37) by the first method component (30) only on the basis of the result of this check.
12. The distributed method as claimed in claim 7, 8, 9, 10 or 11, characterized in that the first method component (30) authenticates (39) all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents (39) them so that they can be subsequently reconstructed.